Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act for deregulation of the marketing system, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers.

(c) and (d) Between 2000-01 and 2006-07 MSP of pulses has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 210 per quintal in the case of Arhar (Tur) and a maximum of Rs. 345 per quintal in the case of Gram and Lentil (Masur). With regard to Oilseeds, the MSP has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 125 per quintal in the case of Soyabean (Black) and a maximum of Rs. 515 per quintal for Rapeseed/Mustard. During the same period production of pulses has been estimated to have increased to 14.10 million tonnes in 2006-07 from 11.07 million tonnes in 2000-01. The production of oilseeds has also been estimated to have increased to 232.64 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 from 184.4 lakh tonnes in 2000-01.

Quality of seeds

3985. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality of seeds are not reaching to the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this problem has stagnated the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. As reported by States the Certified/ Quality Seeds made available to the farmers during 2006-07 is 1,48,18,034 quintals against the demand of 1,28,76,392 quintals.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Special package for goat and piggery development in Kerala

3S86. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: